PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Docket No: Q68729

Group Art Unit: 2833

Examiner: Vu D. Hien

In re application of

Seiji KOZONO, et al.

Appln. No.: 10/083,574

Confirmation No.: 5897

Filed: February 27, 2002

For: ENGAGEMENT DETECTING TRUCTURE IN CONNECTOR

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98

Commissioner for Patents Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicants hereby notify the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office of the documents which are listed on the attached PTO/SB/08 A & B (modified) form and which the Examiner may deem material to patentability of the claims of the above-identified application.

One copy of each of the listed documents is submitted herewith, along with a copy of the corresponding Communication from a Foreign Patent Office.

The present Information Disclosure Statement is being filed after the later of three months from the application's filing date and the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits, but before a Final Office Action, Notice of Allowance, or an action that otherwise closes prosecution in the application (whichever is earlier), and therefore Applicant is filing

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

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Attorney Docket No. Q68729

concurrently herewith a Statement Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e). No fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p)

is required.

The present Information Disclosure Statement is being filed thirty days or fewer from the

communication from a foreign patent office and a Statement Under 37 C.F.R. §1.704(d) is

attached.

The submission of the listed documents is not intended as an admission that any such

document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application. Applicants do not

waive any right to take any action that would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove any

listed document as a competent reference against the claims of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

Registration No. 46,672

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC

Telephone: (202) 293-7060

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WASHINGTON OFFICE

Date: March 21, 2003 _

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Substitute for Form 1449 A & B/PTO

INFORMATION DISCLOSUSE
STATEMENT BY APPLICAN PRADEMINE (use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet

of 1

Complete if Known

Application Number 10/083,574

Confirmation Number 5897

Filing Date February 27, 2002

First Named Inventor Seiji KOZONO

Art Unit 2833

Examiner Name Vu D. Hien

Attorney Docket Number Q68729

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials*	Cite No.1	Document Number		Dublication Data		
		Number	Kind Code ² (if known)	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	
		US 6,186,819	B1	02-13-2001	Holub	
		US 6,116,939	Α	09-12-2000	Fukuda	
		US 6,102,726	Α	08-15-2000	Tsuji et al.	
		US				
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	FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS							
Examiner Initials*	Cite No.1	Foreign Patent Document			Publication Date	Name of Patentee or		
		Country Code ³	Number⁴	Kind Code ⁵ (if known)	MM-DD-YYYY	Applicant of Cited Document	Translation ⁶	
							-	

OTHER PRIOR ART - NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city, and/or country where published.			
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Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
Examiner Signature	L	 Date Committee	

^{*}EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ²See Kind Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov, MPEP 901.04 or in the comment box of this document. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST. 3). ⁴For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to indicate here if English language Translation is attached.

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STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)

Commissioner for Patents Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

The undersigned hereby states, upon information and belief:

That each item of information contained in the Information Disclosure Statement filed concurrently herewith was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of said Information Disclosure Statement.

Respectfully submitted,

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PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE
Date: March 21, 2003